

Transportation and Communication Committee Meeting Summary

July 31, 2003

Item Number

Summary

- Innovative Funding Strategies for Draft 2004 RTP
Estimated Baseline revenue forecast for the 2004 RTP was presented. Estimates of high, medium and low scenarios over the 25+ years plan period of \$144 billion, \$123 billion and \$119 billion respectively were presented.
- Action Item 4.1 In addition, new and innovative strategies to strengthen the Proposition 42, extend sales tax, and maximize the motor vehicle fuel tax through a combination of debt financing and pay as you go financing. Also, there was a lot of debate on the private financing options utilizing the user fee mechanisms.
- The committee passed a motion to receive the report and monitor the Highway and Finance Task Force recommendation.
- Action Item 4.2 RTP Update Schedule delay
Staff reported that the RTP Update schedule was delayed by a month due to the delay in state's budget passage. This will not affect the EIR or the final RTP.
- Action Item 4.3 Comments on LAX Master EIR
Staff reported that the comment period was extended by 75 days to November 7, 03. Therefore, staff will prepare comments and bring back to the committee at a later date.
- Info Item 5.1 SAFETEA Bill Status report
Staff reported that the congress will be working on the bill in early September. The bill on the House side is \$375 billion, Senate side is \$311 billion and the administration proposal is \$247 billion.
- Info Item 5.2 National I-10 Freight Corridor
Caltrans Staff gave a presentation on this item. The study came up with seven scenarios dealing with freight movement. These included widening and building more lanes, using ITS, building truck only lanes, putting freight on rail, on barges, truck urban bypass, and increasing the truck size and weight. ITS applications appear to be promising.

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Info Item 5.1

Tri-Tunnel Express

A presentation was given describing the merits and feasibility of constructing a tunnel connecting Riverside County with Orange County south of SR-91 along this very busy corridor . The capital cost of the tunnel is roughly estimated at \$3 billion.

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2.0

Public Comment

Mr. Todd Priest of Building Industry Association of Southern California brought to the Committee's attention a non-agenda item, Senate Bill 18 (John Burton-D). Senate Bill 18 creates a different status or recognition to Native American Tribes in California giving them more control over land-use decisions in California. But as the bill is currently written, it is extremely broad in defining Native American sites. Mr. Priest asked the Committee to keep an eye on this bill and see if there are reasons why SCAG might want to take a position on this bill.

3.0

Urgency Legislation

Mr. Alfredo B. Gonzalez, Senior Government Affairs Officer at SCAG, checked the status of Senate Bill 18, and confirmed that SB 18 is moving quickly. Motion to Agendize Senate Bill 18 was unanimously agreed. It was moved and unanimously agreed to oppose Senate Bill 18 unless amended. The amendments are to be consistent with those that are being requested by the League of California Cities and the California Chapter of the American Planning Association. Senate Bill 18 is to be forwarded to the Regional Council as an emergency agenda item.

5.1

Action Items

Ms. Lynn Harris, Manager of Community Development informed the Committee of the difficulties at the State level for the State Budget causing delay on the RTP Update Schedule. Ms. Harris informed the Committee that as of July 30, 2003, SCAG is able to make a commitment to get the Draft RTP out in October 2003, therefore amending the recommendation to accept the release of the Draft RTP in October 2003. Action was moved and agreed unanimously.

6.1

Information Items

Consultant who developed a Housing Development Strategy gave a presentation. The company's principal, Dr. Rex Swanson, gave the presentation. Dr. Swanson discussed the program's intent to assist communities in producing housing in a way that adds value to regional investment in transportation and other infrastructure. SK Metro Corp. then created action plans for the production of housing in a series of specific locations throughout the region and near existing transit infrastructure.

6.2

Mr. Alfredo B. Gonzalez, Senior Government Affairs Officer at SCAG reminded the CEHD Committee that at the June 5, 2003 meeting, Committee members requested that House Resolution 1841 "The Housing Assistance for Needy Families Act of 2003" be reviewed. HANF would convert the Federal Housing Choice Voucher Program, also known as "Section 8," to a block grant program administered by state governments.

6.3

Mr. Alfredo B. Gonzalez, Senior Government Affairs Officer at SCAG reported that since the June 5, 2003 CEHD meeting the SB 491 has been significantly amended to reflect the one-year postponement for all Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) cycles to all the agencies charged with the mandate. On July 14, 2003, the governor signed the bill delaying the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Update for all RHNA mandated agencies for 1-year.

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- 6.4 Mr. Darryl Taylor, Associate Planner at SCAG, informed the Committee that approximately \$25 million was awarded to communities meeting the calendar year 2001 production thresholds set for incentive grants by the State Housing and Community Development Department (HCD). Cities and counties were eligible to claim incentive funds if they had (1) adopted a housing element by the end 2001 that HCD had determined to be in substantial compliance with state housing element law, and (2) issued residential building permits exceeding a specified threshold number.
- 6.5 Mr. Jacob Lieb, Senior Regional Planner at SCAG, gave the Committee an update on forecast numbers that the State Department of Housing and Community Development thought the SCAG Region should have achieved through the Regional Housing Needs numbers that CEHD Committee adopted in 2000. Mr. Lieb concluded that while there is still problems in household formation in the SCAG Region, it is not related to supply.
- 6.6 Mayor Bev Perry, Chair of the Growth Visioning Subcommittee, reported that the Subcommittee is dark for the summer and will resume on September 25, 2003. The FY 03 – 04 contract with Fregonese Calthorpe Associates has been executed. Analysis of the Spring COMPASS Workshops is underway. Strategies are being developed for the fall round of COMPASS Workshops with five to six high-profile Workshops of which some information will be contributing to the 2004 RTP including the Scenario Development.
- 6.7 Attorney Colin Lennard, SCAG Legal Counsel, announced moving Closed Session Item 9.0 – Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) lawsuit to Information Item because there has been no action since the Committee's June 5, 2003 meetingack to the Committee regarding the Court's final judgment.
- 8.0 **Staff Reports/Annoucements**
Mayor Bev Perry passed around to each member a SCAG Task Force / Committee / Subcommittee Appointment Form. Mayor Perry instructed the Committee members to complete and submit the form to Ms. Shelia Stewart, Executive Assistant to the Regional Council.

Energy and Environment Committee Meeting Summary

July 31, 2003

| Item Number | Summary |
|-------------|--|
| 4.1.2 | Committee requested this item (Water Policy Task Force item conveying SCAG's support for the recommendations of the California Floodplain Management Report) be brought back for full committee consideration and action at the next EEC meeting. |
| 4.2.1 | Committee requested three bills be pulled out of the legislative matrix and be brought back for consideration and action at the next meeting: SB 288, providing for state actions on air quality plans in lieu of local action (oppose); AB 1497, requiring solid waste facility owners to provide job retraining for employees on closure (oppose), and AB 1300, requiring the state to disclose how all Prop. 50 funds are being spent (support). |
| 5.1 | Committee voted to approve staff's recommended action. Late testimony (after the vote) was received from the South Coast AQMD recommending that the Committee not support Option 1 (as recommended by staff) but Option 2, which would retain the 1-hour ozone standard alongside the 8-hour standard. (This testimony was repeated at RC, which still voted to uphold staff's recommendation.) Committee requested staff to prepare text of a letter that could be used by members to request federal and state actions to control emissions from sources not under local jurisdiction. |
| 5.2 | The budget has been passed and the draft RTP is scheduled for release in October. |
| 5.3 | Rather than send a letter, the Committee voted to adopt a policy position that no increases in tipping fees or waste diversion rates should be adopted by the state without consultation with affected local jurisdictions. (This position was adopted by the RC as well.) |
| 6.2 | Discussion of the EIR raised questions about specific projects in Operation Jump Start, especially truckways through eastern Los Angeles County. Mark Pisano explained the content and intent of Operation Jump Start. |
| 7.0 | Next Water Policy Task Force meeting scheduled for September 11; will need to be moved to the afternoon to avoid conflict with the second RTP/EIR joint policy committee workshop. |
| 8.0 | Solid Waste Task Force will sunset for now. |
| 11.0 | Chair requested SCAQMD Public Advisor give a presentation to EEC. |